

Julius Hoffman, 76, Retires From Bench

From News Dispatches

Federal Judge Julius J. Hoffman, who presided at the controversial Chicago 7 conspiracy trial, is retiring, the White House announced yesterday.

President Nixon acknowledged the retirement of Hoffman, 76, as a U.S. district judge for Northern Illinois, effective upon the appointment and qualification of a successor.

Hoffman was named to the court May 14, 1953, by President Eisenhower. He will assume the status of senior judge.

In the 1969 trial, eight people, including Black Panther leader Bobby Seale, whose case was later separated, were charged with conspiring to cause riots outside the conference hall of the Democratic national convention in 1968.

Defendants ate candy and read comic books during the proceedings to illustrate what they considered to be a mockery of justice and defense lawyers openly accused the judge of being hostile.

Some 150 lawyers demonstrated outside the courthouse after Judge Hoffman ordered the arrest of four defense lawyers. Five of the seven were convicted of inciting violence but the case continues with a series of appeals.

China Gives Boats

COLOMBO, Ceylon, Dec. 1—China will give five patrol boats to the Ceylon navy, Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike told Parliament today.